

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

6 June 1979

DOCUMENT 193/79

## Report <sup>(1)</sup>

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions

**on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament**

**Rapporteur: Mr R. LUSTER**

<sup>(1)</sup> This report replaces the report (Doc. No 178/79) referred back to the committee on 10 May 1979.



At the plenary sitting of 9 May 1979 two motions for resolutions (Doc. 170/79 and Doc. 171/79) were referred to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions for its consideration.

At its meeting on the same day the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions appointed Mr Luster rapporteur and adopted this draft report by 9 votes to 3 with 1 abstention.

At the plenary sitting of 10 May 1979, the report (Doc. 178/79) and the two amendments tabled to the report were referred back to the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions.

The Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions considered the report and the amendments at its meeting of 15 May 1979. Amendment No. 2 to Rule 7A was rejected by 5 votes and 2 abstentions and amendment No. 1 to Rule 36(5) was unanimously rejected.

Present: Mr Hamilton, acting chairman; Mr de Gaay Fortman, Lord Kennet, Mr Lemp, Mr W. Müller, Lord Reay and Sir Derek Walker-Smith.

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The Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the motions for a resolution tabled by the political groups (Doc. 170/79 and Doc. 171/79),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions (Doc. 193/79),
1. Decides to amend its Rules of Procedure as follows:
  2. Instructs its President to have this resolution published in the Official Journal of the European Communities and to forward it, for information, to the Council and Commission of the European Communities and to the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, and instructs its Secretary-General to have published a new edition of the Rules of Procedure thus amended, making sure there is perfect concordance between the texts in the six official languages;
  3. Decides that the Rules of Procedure thus amended shall enter into force at the beginning of the first part-session at which the European Parliament meets without requiring to be convened, pursuant to Article 10(3) of the Act of 20 September 1976.

EXISTING TEXT OF THE RULES

PROPOSED NEW TEXT

Rules 1 to 7 unchanged

Rule 7A

1. After the election of the Vice-Presidents, the Assembly shall elect at least three quaestors.

The quaestors shall be elected by the same procedure as Vice-Presidents and for the same term of office.

2. The quaestors shall be members of the Bureau in an advisory capacity.

3. The quaestors shall be responsible for administrative and financial matters directly concerning members, pursuant to the directives adopted by the Bureau.

Rules 8 to 35 unchanged

Rule 36

Rule 36

1. Members may form themselves into groups according to their political affinities.

1. unchanged

2. A political group shall be considered to have been set up after the President has been handed a statement to the effect containing the name of the group, the signatures of its members and the composition of its Bureau.

2. unchanged

3. This statement shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

3. unchanged

4. A member may not belong to more than one group.

4. unchanged

5. A group shall consist of not less than fourteen members. However, it may consist of not less than ten members where these come from at least three Member States.

5. A group shall consist of not less than twenty-nine members. However, it may consist of not less than twenty-one members where these come from at least two Member States.

Rules 37 to 54 unchanged

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Rule 7A

1. Parliament has had a college of quaestors since 1977. Consisting of a chairman and 3 quaestors, it prepares decisions for the Bureau on administrative or financial matters of direct concern to the Members of Parliament.

Up to now, this body has worked very satisfactorily but the Rules of Procedure have not yet been adapted to take account of its existence. For this reason, it is proposed that a new rule be added to the Rules of Procedure.

2. In view of the fact that the Bureau has frequently to deal with matters of an administrative or financial nature, it would be useful for the quaestors to have a seat in the Bureau, albeit without the right to vote. Furthermore, it would be desirable to elect the quaestors immediately after the vice-chairmen. They would be elected by the same procedure and for the same term of office as the vice-chairmen.

3. Under the new rule, at least 3 quaestors would be appointed. This is a compromise between the political groups which affords the possibility of appointing a greater number of quaestors.

Rule 36(5)

4. This amendment has become necessary as a result of the doubling of the number of Members of Parliament.

5. Up to now the minimum number of members required in order to form a political group has been 14. However, if the members of the group came from at least 3 different Member States, a group could be formed by 10 members.

6. Unless the provisions of Rule 36(5) are amended, mini-groups of 10 members could spring up, with all manner of undesirable consequences.

7. It is proposed that the minimum number of members be raised from 29. For the sake of the smaller groups, a compromise has been arrived at whereby a minimum number of only 21 members is needed to form a group provided that they come from at least 2 Member States.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION      Doc. 170/79

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER on behalf of the Socialist Group

Mr KLEPSCH on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group  
(Group of the European People's Party)

Mr PINTAT on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

Mr RIPPON on behalf of the European Conservative Group

Mr AMENDOLA on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group

Mr de la MALENE on behalf of the Group of European Progressive Democrats

on the creation of a new Rule 7A of the Rules of Procedure of the  
European Parliament

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,

1. Decides to create a new Rule 7A of the Rules of Procedure to read as follows:

Rule 7A

1. After the election of the Vice-Presidents, the Assembly shall elect at least three quaestors.

The quaestors shall be elected by the same procedure as Vice-Presidents and for the same term of office.

2. The quaestors shall be members of the Bureau in an advisory capacity.

3. The quaestors shall be responsible for administrative and financial matters directly concerning Members, pursuant to the directives adopted by the Bureau.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION Doc. 171/79

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER on behalf of the Socialist Group,  
Mr KLEPSCH on behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group (EPP Group),  
Mr PINTAT on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group,  
Mr RIPPON on behalf of the European Conservative Group, and  
Mr AMENDOLA on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group

on the amendment of Rule 36(5) of the Rules of Procedure

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure

Decides to amend Rule 36(5) of its Rules of Procedure to read as follows:

5. A group shall consist of not less than twenty-nine members.  
However, it may consist of not less than twenty-one members  
where these come from at least two Member States.

